

AUGUST

1995

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 7 NUMBER 8

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

WHISTLE STOP CAFE

	1st. Game	2nd. Game
Peddler's Pub	15-10	11-1
DRC	4-8	17-5
Church	13-1	7-0
Bonnie Jewel	7-11	9-8
Martin's	18-0	Record
Chevron Cafe	2-10	7 and 4
Dee Ken's	7-10	

"I think I can. I.. think ... I....can. I knew I could! I knew I could!!" So toots the Whistle Stop Cafe after their last, exciting and victorious game!

It was slow going for a while, with a 3 and 4 after the first 7 games. Then there was a double header which plunged our team into a winners position with a 5 and 4. The next game was a forfeit, due to the Church team not having enough players and then came the last game, played so far. A really big, exciting win, giving us a 7 and 4.

It was a beautiful evening for a sit on the grass, watching our wimin play ball. It was nip and tuck for the first 6 innings...a close game, exciting, with Whistle Stop Cafe struggling to just keep up and then hold them. Then the action really started to fly at the top of the 7th. We were 3 and 3, then Bonnie Jewel started making the runs. After their 5th run, they were counting their chickens and ready to declare themselves the victors. Then Whistle Stop steps to the plate. Connie

had a double. Julie, Marlene, Kelly, and Linda hit singles, loading the bases for Susan, who hit a grand slam home run to win the game. How is that for a great comeback?! What a night!! What a Great night of softball action. I'm really sorry for all of you who missed that night. It was spectacular!!!

It seems that Whistle Stop keeps getting stronger and stronger. Games may start a little slow, but our players seem to take on strength the longer they're out there on that field. Also, the season started out with a little toy train, not always so on track, and has progressed to something like a steam locomotive. If this observation has any merit, I know that I do not want to miss the next, and last, three games.

We were all sorry that Kim got hurt. It's going to be much harder to keep up the necessary steam without her. Get well soon, Kim. We love you!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

Canceled for the summer due to the softball season.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG
P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837
Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-695-7311
Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sheree (616)-684-6365
Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338
Advertising: Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Morrow's
2323 Mishawaka Ave., Mishawaka
Friday, August 18th
7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday, August 16th, at (219)-291-5837

Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 19th
Leave from St. Pat's Park at 10 a.m., canoe to Niles. Picnic at St. Pat's afterwards, hot dogs and buns provided, bring a dish to pass. Reservations and money, \$8.00 per person for canoe trip and hot dogs, to Marcia by Wednesday, August 9th.
Financial assistance available.
Call Marcia at 271-0338 for info.

Whistle Stop Cafe Schedule

Aug. 4	Dee Ken's	6:30	Boehm
--------	-----------	------	-------

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Aug. 7-13 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Hart, MI
Aug. 26 Women's Equality Day (75th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote), march in South Bend, 8:00 a.m., Copshaholm Museum, 808 W. Washington, call penny Hughes for info, 291-2482
Sept. 9 Ohio Lesbian Festival, 614-267-3953, Coloumbus, OH
Sept. 8-10 Sisterspace Pocono Weekend, 215-476-8856, Pennsylvania
Sept. 23 Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest, 23 mi. SE of rockford, IL and 70 mi. west of Chicago(Kingston, IL) 707-786-5377
Nov. 3-12 The 15th Chicago Lesbain and Gay International Film Festival, 312-384-5533
Olivia Cruises
Sept. 17-24 French/Italian Riviera
Oct. 5-12 Sonora Bay
Nov. 4-11 Ixtapa
Apr. 8-15, 1996 Grand Caribbean
Jun. 25-Jul. 3, 1996 Alaska
1-800-631-6277

Open Arms would like to welcome author Lee Lynch of Oregon as a contributing columnist. We hope that you will enjoy her writing.

I DO BELIEVE IN FAIRIES

by Lee Lynch 1995

When I first found The Lump it was like, oh, that's what I get for being good and doing self-examinations. Of course it'll be nothing. Still, I'm a well-trained middle class person who works hard for my health insurance. I'll check it out. I don't know whether I was more impressed or scared that I was able to get an appointment with a gynecologist so quickly.

By the next day I was in x-ray with a technician who would be the first of a ridiculous number of middle aged women with war stories about Lumps of their own. They had scars and empty bras and seemed generally to consider the whole business a big bore, but they also had oceans of empathy for the new kid on the block. More important for me even than their empathy was that they are living, walking, talking proof that cancer does not have to equal death.

Nevertheless, sitting here in the surgeon's examining room today, waiting for The Man, my mind roams into all sorts of shadowy recesses. Is my will tight enough? Will I ever smell another honeysuckle bush? Poor Lover's already suffered through the loss of a partner, I can't let it happen again. Is there time to finish my novel? What about the stories clamoring to get written? And: I guess I'm not Peter Pan after all.

Just as this relentless attack of inner terrorism gets out of hand, the surgeon arrives. Surprisingly, I like him. He explains a lot, listens, touches, confirms. He recommends and reassures, guessing that we're only dealing with a cyst. He asks, when I make notes, If I'm writing a book. I tell him I'm writing this column because, well, because I'm not the only one going through this.

The nurse is warm and sweet. She holds my hand as he inserts the needle, says it will feel like a bee sting, but it's nothing - until he tries to aspirate what is not aspiratable. Although it's not a cyst, he's almost certain it's not cancer, "But we can't leave it in there."

The first available appointment for the biopsy is almost a week away. "You don't have cancer," he tells me and the words will be my mantra, I'm sure, for a week. *I do believe in fairies.*

I don't cry until I get to Lover's office. She holds me. Keeps me close. Strokes my knee over and over as if to reassure both of us that I am here. But this is me. I come with a lifetime warranty: good health, an almost entirely long-lived family. I am surprised, perplexed, indignant at this stupid Lump. Surely the surgeon is right and the biopsy will only serve to confirm that. Aren't I, after all, a privileged college-educated American?

The worst of it is how terribly ordinary it all is. Knowing that though I won't go to Portland Gay Pride Sunday with surgery hanging over my head, I will get this column out and do the grocery shopping Saturday. Life, as the old saw says, goes on.

I think I'm not scared, but I keep getting teary-eyed. I think I'm calm, but I got lost driving over to Lover's office. "You don't have cancer," the doctor said, but he also thought it would be a cyst. Overreacting or not, I won't be satisfied until the stitches are in and the lab report is negative.

By next week at this time all I'll have to show for the worrying and the tears is a new scar on my body. I'll be bored with my own war story, encouraging to the next lesbian with a Lump. This has been too close for comfort. *I do believe in fairies.*

Copyright 1995

Lee Lynch has written many novels including, "That Old Studebaker", "Morton River Valley", "Private Eye", and her latest "Cactus Love". Her books are published by Naiad Press.



What Really Matters
author unknown

*My parents asked if I'm Gay,
I said, "does it matter?"
they said, "not really."
I told them, "yes, I'm gay."
They said, "get out of our lives."
I guess it mattered.*

*My boss said, "are you gay?"
I said, "does it matter?"
My boss said, "not really."
I told my boss, "yes, I'm Gay."
My boss said, "you're fired! queer."
I guess it mattered.*

*My friend asked if I'm Gay,
I said, "does it matter?"
my friend said, "no, not really."
I told my friend, "yes, I'm Gay."
my friend said, "don't call me friend."
I guess it mattered.*

*My lover said, "do you love me?"
I said, "does it matter?"
my lover said, "Yes."
I told my lover, "yes, I love you"
my lover said, "hold me in your arms."
For the first time something in my life mattered.*

*God asked, "Do you love yourself?"
I said, "does it matter?"
God said, "yes."
I said, "how can I love myself if I'm Gay?"
God said, "because that is the way I made you."
Nothing will ever matter again!!*

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number.

Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** *Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

Dear Court of Friends:

Just wanted to let you know that with your help, I now have a wonderful womyn sharing my life.

After a year of being single, this urge arose to start socializing again. After checking with my friends about available singles, we decided that an ad in "Open Arms" was the best way to meet some new wimmin.

The ad drew five replies, and one reply caught my eye right away, but due to my work schedule and a lack of nerve, I wasn't able to call her for a month. When I finally did call, I reached an answering machine, but she returned my call later that evening. We arranged to meet at a restaurant a few days later.

The chemistry was right from the beginning. We spent the next few weekends learning all about one another, and discovered that we shared many common interests.

It wasn't very long before we decided to share one household, instead of carrying on a long distance relationship. Everything is working out very well, and we would like to leave everyone with this thought, "the relationships we create and build throughout our lives give life a greater and deeper meaning".

Best Wishes Always,
Sue and Loretta.

Consumer Information from TLC (The Lesbian Committee of NOW)

Each month The Lesbian Committee intends to survey 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/gay friendly. We will then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to the local lesbian/gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/gay organizations.

This month we polled **female attorneys** regarding their views about lesbians and gay men as employees and clients. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply. .

"There's no question in my mind but that rights are never won unless people are willing to fight for them." Eleanor Smeal (*And then she said...*)

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your clients was lesbian or gay, would you treat them the same?

Yes to all three: Diane Shields Hilleart
Florence Vamos

No Reply:

Roslyn Amor
Tracey Anderson
Lynn Arnold
Mary Kohn
Barbara Roberts
Angela Russo
Deborah Tuttle
Julie Verheye

And some supporters who will be in an upcoming l/g-friendly directory:

Erasmus Books, Phil Schatz, 1027 E. Wayne,
South Bend

Hughes Investments, Penny Hughes, 106 LWF,
Mishawaka

Equitable/Equico Securities, Joyce Wegs, 425
Park Place Cir, Mishawaka

Big Business Pursues Lesbian Dollars

New statistics on the lesbian market and increased visibility of lesbians in mainstream media has encouraged some big businesses to target lesbians in their advertising.

In years past many advertisers thought that the lesbian market was not as wealthy as straight or gay male markets and that lesbians were not interested in swank merchandise. Overlooked Opinions, a Chicago-based research firm, has recently released statistics on the lesbian market. Overlooked Opinions estimates that lesbians spend about \$137 billion per year and have average household incomes of \$42,755.

Increased lesbian visibility in mainstream media generated by television shows like "Friends", movies like "Bar Girls", and celebrities like Melissa Etheridge, k.d. lang and Martina Navratilova have also opened up advertisers eyes to the lesbian market.

American Express, Stolichnay vodka, Atlantic Records and Naya bottled water are advertising in lesbian magazines such as *Deneuve*, *Lesbian News*, *Girlfriends*, and *On Our Backs*. Tanqueray vodka and Pierre Cardin have agreed to sponsor a television show for lesbians and gay men. The show, called "Freestyles", will air on VH-1 this summer. Amanda Bearse of "Married... With Children" will host the show.

Only a few advertisements for mainstream businesses actually depict lesbians. Tuaca liquor and Atlantic Records are exceptions. A Tuaca ad shows three women, two of which are flirting with each other. The other woman seems to be thinking about placing an ad in the personals. The Atlantic Records ad shows two women holding hands.

Big business might not have a handle on the lesbian market just yet. An executive vice president and creative director at Stolichnaya's ad agency told a *Wall Street Journal* reporter, "The ads we run in lesbian publications are the same as the ones in *Vogue* because although they are women of a different persuasion they're still women."

--information from Wall Street Journal

a hunger so deep

A new book on eating disorders, *A Hunger So Wide and So Deep* challenges currently-held assumptions about eating disorders, based on new research by psychologist Becky Thompson. Thompson, who is a professor of African-American Studies at Wesleyan University, writes that eating disorders happen most frequently in women of color, lesbians, women in their 30s, and women under severe economic stress; contrasted to the hyped profile of almost exclusively young, white, middle-class women. She argues that eating disorders are a form of post-traumatic stress disorder in response to racism, sexism, homophobia, and other abuses directed towards women.

Thompson's research indicates not only that long-held approaches to treating eating disorders must be reconsidered by psychologists and physicians; but also that the whole *definition* of eating disorders must be redefined. Eating disorders are often treated as an illness of "vanity" and low self-esteem, rather than as *real* stress related illnesses. Not only does this approach to treatment dismiss the real issues facing the young, white, middle-class victims of eating disorders, but it completely overlooks the disease's sociological implications for women of color, poor women, and lesbians who may go undiagnosed and untreated. (info from *Metroline*, 3/2/95)



Special Guest: Pandora's

Place: Milton Township Community Hall, Niles, MI

Date: August 26, 1995

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Ind. Time
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mich. Time

Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY

(no advance tickets)



A Wommin's
Event

Music by
DJ

Refreshments
Door Prizes

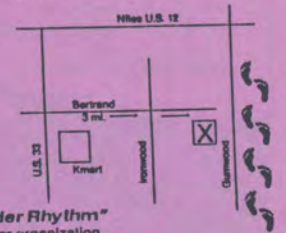


Volunteers Needed

Call 616-684-7362 for information.



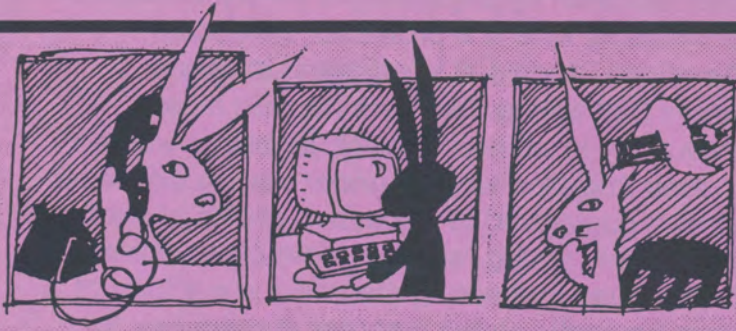
BYOB



Sponsored by the "Lavender Rhythm"
not affiliated with any group or organization.

Disclaimer: Lavender Rhythm or Milton Township are Not Responsible for Alcohol Related Incidents.

OPEN ARMS SUPPORTERS



If this ad caught your attention... good. Then it succeeded. Consider...

What
Lin Hoppel Communications
Can Do For You, Too

Marketing plans, ad campaigns, consumer research, newsletters, brochures, logos, speeches, business letters and reports, even videos. We'll quickly determine your needs and give you a free estimate.

Think about it!

Call/fax: 616.663.8759

P.O. Box 111 ▼ Edwardsburg ▼ MI 49112



ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



HUGHES INVESTMENTS

PENNY HUGHES
Real Estate Broker

Bus. (219) 259-5641	Res. (219) 291-2342
Fax (219) 259-5643	(219) 291-2482

New! Opening in June...a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland, Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.

Saugatuck on the river...

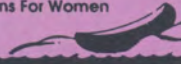
DEERPATH LODGE

...an enchanting retreat



Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women



For Reservations & Information:
P.O. Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
1-616-857-DEER

Story T Isle



Sofas
Chairs
Fabrics
Refinishing

Custom Upholstery and Design

(219) 272-6194
Sandy Berta - Owner

Marge & Joanne's

BED & BREAKFAST

•accommodations for women•

Duneswood



P.O. Box 457
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

616-334-3346

OPEN ARMS SUPPORTERS

Premier Properties Real Estate Services



P.O. Box 1173
Goshen, IN 46527

"Talk to Tina"

Tina Weldy, GRI, CRS
Broker/Owner

Specializing in Elkhart
County Residential
Properties



Office/Fax: (219) 534-8484
Residence: (219) 534-TINA



LU ELLEN BROWN
WIRE WRAPPED JEWELRY

(616) 684-6365



KOALA
COUNSELING CENTER
SOUTH BEND

125 South Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617
(219) 232-4191
1-800-92-KOALA
FAX (219) 232-4561

Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW
Director

ANNE V. WHITCOMB MA, CSW

Counseling for Growth & Health



(219) 674-0168



DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby.

Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

You don't have to be a lesbian to like purple. You just have to understand that color is Nature's way of saying, "I'm here and I want to be loved."

Odette De Crecy

August 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
July <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	2 NOW Meeting St. Joe Library 7:00 p.m.	3	4 Softball Boehm Park 6:30 p.m.	5
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																										
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																										
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																										
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																										
30	31																																															
6	7 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Aug. 7 through Aug. 13	8 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12																																										
13 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	14	15 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	16 Reservations due for Third Fri. Out and canoe trip.	17	18 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	19 Canoe Trip 10:00a.m. from St. Pat's Park Potluck afterwards ☐																																										
20	21	22 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26 Dance 7:00p.m. to 12:00a.m. Niles ☐																																										
27 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	28	29 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	30	31	September <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																										
					1	2																																										
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																										
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																										
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																										
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																										

Printed by Calendar Creator Plus on 7/19/95

ALL TIMES ARE INDIANA TIMES

Subscription for Open Arms - \$10.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Make checks payable to Open Arms and mail it to:
Open Arms, P.O. 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the September *Open Arms* is August 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after August 10th may not be published in the September newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, August 13th, 1995, at 6:30p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.